



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Town Clerk (860)441-6640
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Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Harry Watson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Brown-Tracy and Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by former councilor John Scott.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2008-0064 Proclamation Recognizing Girl Scout Week

Read

Councilor Sheets read a proclamation recognizing Girl Scout Week.

2008-0087 Proclamation Recognizing Twenty Years of Televising Town Council Meetings

Read

Mayor Watson presented a proclamation recognizing twenty years of televising Town Council meetings. Municipal Video Specialist Shawn Greeley extended his thanks to the Town Council, both past and present, Mark Oefinger, Lee Vincent, and the viewing public for this recognition.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Paul Bates, 47 Church Street, stated that three years ago the Public Works department undertook the resolution of a drainage problem at the east end of Main Street in the Town dock area. A consultant was brought in who determined that more lighting was needed, but the amount of lighting recommended would create a 400-foot wall of impenetrable light. Mr. Bates requested that the Town continue utilizing the current lighting in that area, rather than increasing it.

John Scott, 674 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, basically supports the Burnett's Corner resolution tonight, but is concerned that there will be some confusion over the definitions of revitalization and renovation. He proposed an amended resolution to the Council that he views as more clearly defining the expectations for the Preservation Society. He urged the Council to adopt a resolution tonight on Burnett's Corner property.

Jim Mitchell, 711 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, represents the Burnett's Corner Preservation Society. He stated that a proposal has been submitted to the Town which includes timeframes, and documents what the Society would like to do with the building. Since he had not seen the resolution on tonight's agenda until moments ago, Mr. Mitchell suggested that the decision on this matter be made at a later time.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

2008-0091 Noank Town Dock Lighting

NOANK TOWN DOCK LIGHTING

Councilor Kolnaski requested that a referral be made to the Public Works Department to investigate the lighting levels at the east end of Main Street in the Town dock area.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**a. Approval of Minutes****2008-0085 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of March 4, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2008-0068 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Various Donations - \$799.89 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
City of Groton - \$1,212.83 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Susan Decorte - \$249.86 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jude Rittenhouse - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe-Mystic
Connie Cousens - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Bethany Luciano - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
The Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut - \$4,000.00 - Arts Cafe-Mystic
Pedigree Dog Food - \$206.62 - Animal Control Facility

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2008-0014 Par Four Restaurant Lease**

Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken

2008-0044 Bluff Point to Preston Bike Trail

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0056 Status of Property Foreclosures

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0057 Status of Municipal Bond Insurance Markets

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0059 Burnett's Corners Preservation Society Plan

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0063 Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative Grant (Human Services)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0065 Traffic Signal on Allyn Street at Sandy Hollow Road

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0067 Historic Document Preservation Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

- 2008-0070 Summer Food Service Program (2008)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0071 Local Prevention Council Grant Program**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0072 Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative Grant (Senior Center)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0073 Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding Membership Dues**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0074 Submarine Capital of the World Inc. Request for Donation**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0078 Long Island Sound (LIS) Fund Grant**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0079 State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0080 Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding**
Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken
- 2008-0082 Public Hearing on Gravel Street Pump Station Lease**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0083 Introduction of an Ordinance Creating an Other Postemployment Benefits Trust**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0084 Resolution Setting Public Hearing on an Ordinance Creating an Other Postemployment Benefits Trust**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Monteiro received an email on the budget, and an email on the volunteer firefighter tax credit proposal.

Councilor Schmidt received an email on the budget, and three calls supporting the preservation of the Burnett's Corner building.

Councilor Sheets, along with four other Councilors, attended the National League of Cities Conference. It was particularly helpful on climate change issues, foreclosures, and the credit crisis impacts on local communities. She also attended an informational meeting sponsored by the Department of Public Health which focused on local reservoir systems and how to protect them. Councilor Sheets received three emails in support of the Arts Cafe.

Councilor Bond attended the National League of Cities Conference, where there was a meeting with our Congressmen and Senators to discuss nine high-priority initiatives for the Town; as a result of that meeting, some grants have already been filed. She received a few emails regarding the budget, and a call in support of going forward with the traffic light at Allyn Street and Sandy

Hollow Road. She also received an email concerning the volunteer firefighter tax abatement.

Councilor Streeter attended a play at the Senior Center, the twenty-fifth anniversary event for the New London Maritime Society, and the Thames Street Revitalization Committee Meeting. He received several emails regarding consolidation of services across 169 towns in Connecticut, requests for funding for the Arts Cafe, and the firefighter tax credit program. He received two additional emails that were referred to the Town Manager about the questionable use of a Town vehicle and clutter on the property near the top of Fort Hill. Councilor Streeter also received a call from Mike Nahornick, who expressed concerns about rising taxes and the poor state of the national economy.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Ledge Light Heath District Meeting, the Ledge Light Health District Finance Committee Meeting, a student line dancing class at Claude Chester School, the Permanent School Board Committee Meeting, and as part of the Phase II Meeting, she toured Clark Lane School in Waterford. She attended the Council/BOE/RTM Liaison Committee meeting where they discussed the hiring of a new Superintendent and civilian children living in Navy housing.

Mayor Watson added that he spoke with BOE Chair Beverly Washington and has requested the number of civilian children living in Navy housing, including grade levels, number of years in the school system, and whether there are any special needs. Councilor Kolnaski also presented a short biography of her life for Fitch Middle School History Day.

Mayor Harry Watson spoke with Beverly Washington regarding the BOE and Town Council meeting on the budget and suggested an informal overview of the Board of Education budget followed by a question and answer session.

2008-0093

Council Goalsetting

COUNCIL GOALSETTING

Mayor Watson made a referral to the Committee of the Whole to determine Council Goals.

At the Mystic Task Force meeting, the Mayor spoke with Ed Haberek, the first selectman of Stonington, and decided to have a joint meeting to discuss issues that cross town boundaries. Mayor Watson attended a special COG meeting to discuss upcoming legislation, and also attended the National League of Cities Conference. He, along with Beverly Washington, had a second "meet and greet" at the library where many citizens brought issues and concerns regarding the schools, the economy, small business, the Senior Center, Thames Street, the community police bike patrol and the hiring of a new Superintendent of Schools. There will be another "meet and greet" on May 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the library. The Mayor attended the change of command at the SubBase. He, along with Mark Oefinger and City Mayor Dennis Popp, attended a luncheon sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce where all three spoke on different aspects of government in Groton. The Mayor took an eye-opening ride with TVCCA for their Meals on Wheels program, where 32 meals were delivered to shut-ins. He also attended a meeting to discuss the trail from Preston to Bluff Point, and walked in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with other elected officials. The Mayor received ten emails regarding extending the increased conveyance tax, three in favor and seven opposed.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The regular RTM meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, and a RTM Public Comment session on the budget will be held on Tuesday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center. Actual budget deliberations for the RTM will begin on May 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Council held its Public Hearing on the budget last night. Councilors will meet with the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools on April 2 at 6:00 p.m. for an overview of the

Education Budget and will begin their budget deliberations on Saturday, April 5 at 8:30 a.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

d. Town Manager

Budget deliberation sessions will begin April 2 with the Board of Education, and the Council will continue their budget deliberations on the two following Saturdays, April 5 and April 12. As a result of the budget review calendar, the COW, Group I, and Group II meetings on April 8 will be cancelled and replaced with a Council budget review session. The Manager added that \$150,000 in state funding has been appropriated for construction of trails on the Copp property. A meeting between the Council and the Copp Board has been scheduled for May 27.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

Councilor Sheets read the minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

Councilor Schmidt read the minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro

Councilor Monteiro read the minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

Nine of the resolutions on tonight's agenda were discussed. There was an executive session on April 1 regarding strategy and negotiations on collective bargaining, and there was a public hearing on the budget on March 31.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2008-0092 Creation of a Town Garden

CREATION OF A TOWN GARDEN

Councilor Sheets received a communication regarding a Town garden; evidently there was one years ago. She made a referral to the Community and Cultural Development Committee to look into the creation of one.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0014 Par Four Restaurant Lease

RESOLUTION APPROVING A LEASE AND CONCESSIONAIRE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the current concessionaire at the Town-owned Shennecossett Golf Course has provided food service for the past 21 years, and

WHEREAS, the concessionaire, Par Four Restaurant, has worked cooperatively with the Town to conduct popular golfing events, and

WHEREAS, a new lease has been negotiated that will include numerous changes in the premises and equipment for the benefit of all parties, including installing systems for reduced energy usage, and

WHEREAS, the commitments to be undertaken by both the Town as lessor, and Par Four Restaurant as lessee, would be economically justified by a lease term of sufficient length, and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and referred by the Town Council to the Groton Planning Commission for their review and report pursuant to CGS Sec. 8-24, and was accepted by the Planning Commission with no objections, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the lease of premises at Shennecossett Golf Course for a term of ten years, renewable for ten years, to the concessionaire, Anthony Christina and Peter Ganacopolos, owners of the Par Four Restaurant.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0044

Bluff Point to Preston Bike Trail

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A BLUFF POINT TO PRESTON TRAIL COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, a hiking and biking trail has been proposed between Bluff Point State Park and the Preston Community Park, and

WHEREAS, the proposed trail would pass over lands in the Towns of Groton, Ledyard and Preston, including Town owned lands, and

WHEREAS, cooperative planning is needed for designing and connecting the trail, and

WHEREAS, Groton, Ledyard and Preston jointly resolve to promote alternative transportation routes while enhancing outdoor recreation and increasing opportunities for their citizens to experience the natural beauty of Southeastern Connecticut, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a Bluff Point/Preston Trail Committee be established by the Towns of Groton, Ledyard and Preston and that Groton's members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor, with Groton being authorized to appoint up to three members, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the work of this Committee may include the following:

1. Determine the most desirable route of the proposed trail.
2. Seek the input and approval of landowners along the proposed trail.
3. Seek the input of Parks & Recreation Commissions, Conservation Commissions in the three Towns as well as the Copp Property Board and the Bluff Point State Park Superintendent.
4. Recommend improvements to existing sections of the trail and construction needs on non-

existing sections, both short term and long term.

5. Make recommendations regarding parking areas, security, signage, trash disposal, and other support needs.

6. Develop cost estimates.

7. Explore sources of funding, including grant lines, endowments, and donations. Submit grant applications, provided that any required matching funds are in place.

8. Recommend any other measures that might enhance the concept of the trail; and be it further

RESOLVED, that State Representatives Thomas Reynolds and/or Elissa Wright shall convene the organizational meeting within thirty days of the appointment of members by all three Towns. Officers shall be selected by and from the membership of the Committee, regular public meetings shall be scheduled thereafter, and a record of all proceedings shall be kept, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Committee shall make interim reports on its work to the legislative bodies of the three Towns approximately six months after its organization. At that time, each Town may make additional requests of the Committee and set a time line for a final report, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council urges that the Committee's efforts include Groton Utilities as an essential participant and stakeholder.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0059

Burnett's Corners Preservation Society Plan

RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWN TO RECOVER OWNERSHIP OF A PROPERTY AT BURNETT'S CORNER

WHEREAS, in September, 1995, the Town of Groton conveyed to the Burnett's Corner Preservation Society ("Society") a parcel of property know as Old Masonic Hall, and

WHEREAS, that conveyance carried the condition that the Society was to accomplish stabilization of the structure by December, 1995, and

WHEREAS, at various times from 1995 until the present, the Town Council, the Town Manager and the Town Building Official have conferred with representatives of the Society and have notified the Society of serious and urgent concerns about the deteriorated and potentially unsafe state of the structure, and have requested that steps be taken to preserve the building and prevent entry, and

WHEREAS, those same concerns have been more intensively pursued in late 2007, and continuing to date, in communications from Town staff and in meetings of the Town Council Committee of the Whole with officials of the Society, at which the Society represented that it would promptly return with plans to stabilize and protect the structure of the Old Masonic Hall, and

WHEREAS, after very thorough consideration and lengthy forbearance, the Town Council deems that the efforts of the Burnett's Corner Preservation Society have been clearly inadequate, and deems that the Society should forfeit its ownership under the terms of the conveyance, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council directs the Town Attorney to begin legal proceedings for the repossession of the Burnett's Corner property by the Town of Groton, such proceedings to be

considered in the event of the failure of the Society to satisfy the conditions set forth as FURTHER RESOLVED herein, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council simultaneously directs the Society to have undertaken a professional structural analysis of the building and that the structural analysis including a remediation plan be completed and delivered to the Town Council within 45 days, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Society notify the Town Council within 10 days of being notified of this action of the Society's intent to have a structural analysis undertaken, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event of the failure of the Society to present a structural analysis and remediation plan that is acceptable by the Town Council, then the Council shall order the conclusion of the impending legal or judicial proceedings for the Town to repossess the property and thereafter to take such action as it deems necessary and appropriate.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

Councilor Streeeter questioned the meaning of the word "remediation" in the second "Resolved" and requested clarification. The Town Manager replied that it was the best way to entail more than a paint job and a new roof. Councilor Streeeter stated that he was pleased with this answer.

Councilor Schmidt thinks that this resolution is premature since the Town had given approval and encouragement to the Society when they presented a plan to remediate the property. Interest is being generated in different historic offices on both a State and Federal level, and a historical architect stated that he is uncertain whether the Town can actually reclaim the property.

Councilor Sheets agreed with Councilor Schmidt that the Town cannot authorize demolition of this building until further efforts have been made.

Councilor Bond believes that the Council had agreed that a structural analysis was going to be done to see if the building could actually be saved. If the structure can be saved, a plan needs to be in place within 45 days. If it cannot be saved, Groton needs to take the property back and contact the Historic Register for approval to take the structure down.

Councilor Monteiro agreed with Councilor Bond that she definitely wants a professional structural analysis, as there are concerns whether the building can be restored at a reasonable cost, and the Council would need to know where the funding would come from. She is also concerned with liability factors with the building in its current state.

Councilor Sheets agreed with Councilor Bond regarding a structural analysis, but she would also like the State Historic Commission and the National Trust to be contacted so that information will be available when it is time to take a second look at this item.

Councilor Schmidt stated that she has talked with the Historic Preservation Society in Hartford and they are interested in this project and want to discuss what planning is necessary, what funding might be available, and what needs to be done before issuing that funding.

MOTION TO AMEND the final paragraph of the resolution to read: "FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event of the failure of the Society to present a structural analysis and remediation plan that is acceptable by the Town Council, then the Council shall order the conclusion of the impending legal or judicial proceedings for the Town to repossess the property and thereafter to take such action as it deems necessary and appropriate." was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Monteiro.

Councilor Streeter stated that the custodian of this building has had thirteen years to provide a remediation program, and it hasn't taken place. If nothing is done in the 45 days, then the building should be torn down and a plaque with a description be placed on the site.

VOTE on Motion to Amend passed 5 In Favor, 2 Opposed (Opposed: Mayor Watson and Councilor Kolnaski).

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0063

Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative Grant (Human Services)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUNDING REQUEST TO STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CONNECTICUT MUNICIPALITIES 2008 SPECIAL FUNDING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, funding is available to the Town of Groton via the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services' Aging Services Division as part of the Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative, and

WHEREAS, the funding is specifically designated for the support and/or development of case management services to the Town's senior population age 60 and older, and

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services currently provides comprehensive case management services to Groton senior citizens, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager or his designee to submit a request to the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services' Aging Services Division, for a grant in the amount of \$1500 to support and/or develop case management services provided via Groton Human Services for adults age 60 years and older residing in the Town of Groton.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0065

Traffic Signal on Allyn Street at Sandy Hollow Road

RESOLUTION NOTIFYING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE TOWN'S INTENT TO HELP FUND A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT ALLYN STREET AND SANDY HOLLOW ROAD

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Traffic Authority requested a study by the State Traffic Commission based on police observations and citizen concerns about high traffic and low visibility in the vicinity of the Exit 89 ramps from both northbound and southbound I-95, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has notified the Town's Traffic Authority of its intent to install a traffic light at the northbound exit ramp at no cost to the Town, and

WHEREAS, DOT has also determined that a traffic light is warranted at the intersection of Allyn Street and Sandy Hollow Road and that as part of DOT's project said traffic light would be installed if the Town agreed to fund 10% of the project cost estimated to be \$10,000, and

WHEREAS, the installation of a signal at the Allyn Street and Sandy Hollow Road intersection by the Town itself at a later date could cost in excess of \$100,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council directs the Town Manager to notify DOT of the Town's intent to participate in the project and authorizes the expenditure from existing appropriated funds of \$10,000 as a cost share for the planned traffic signal, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to enter into any agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation and to execute all required documents and certifications for the effectuation of this project.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

As information only, the Town Manager stated that geometric improvements are planned for this interchange in 2010, so he raised the issue with DOT that it would be nice to tear this interchange up once and do both the geometrics and the lights at the same time.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0067

Historic Document Preservation Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A CONTRACT FOR A HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton will benefit by the continuance of the Historic Document Preservation Program which will be enabled and enhanced by grant funding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager of the Town of Groton, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0070

Summer Food Service Program (2008)

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO OPERATE A 2008 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN GROTON

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides funding through the Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs, for a Summer Food Service Program for Children, and

WHEREAS, the Summer Food Service Program for Children promotes and provides good nutrition during the summer months when at-risk, low-income children are not receiving the benefits of the Federal School Breakfast/Lunch Programs through their schools, and

WHEREAS, units of local government may act as sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program and the Town of Groton Department of Human Services is capable of administering Groton's Summer Food Service Program for Children, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, is authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs for the purpose of establishing and operating a Groton-based Summer Food Service Program for Children, overseen by Groton Human Services, during the months of June, July and August 2008 and sign claims for reimbursement, and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the absence or incapacity of the first designated individual, (Town Manager Oefinger,) the Town Finance Director, Salvatore M. Pandolfo, is designated to sign claims for reimbursement.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0071

Local Prevention Council Grant Program

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY

FOR FYE 09 LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL FUNDS VIA THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL ACTION COUNCIL (SERAC)

WHEREAS, prevention initiatives are needed to help deter Groton youth from substance abuse, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC - formerly Citizens' Task Force on Addictions in New London County,) in conjunction with the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), offers an annual recurring grant through its capacity as a Local Prevention Council (LPC) to Groton and other municipalities, and

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services has demonstrated its commitment and ability to administer the LPC/SERAC grant to foster initiatives that prevent the onset of alcohol, drug and tobacco use among Groton children and youth, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager or his designee to apply to the Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC) for FYE 09 LPC grant funds in such amount as may be determined, which will be utilized by Groton Human Services for programs aimed at deterring Groton youth from substance abuse.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0072

Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative Grant (Senior Center)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL FUNDING INITIATIVE GRANT FOR THE SENIOR CENTER

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, Aging Services Division, provides funds to develop or enhance a program for older adults, and

WHEREAS, it would benefit Groton's seniors to have the services of a trainer in teaching individuals how to prevent falls as well as a program to help seniors check up on their available benefits, and

WHEREAS, grant funds for such programs can be most effectively used in a planned collaboration with other towns, specifically East Lyme and Waterford, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a grant of \$3,000 under the 2008 Special Funding Initiative for Senior Centers and is authorized to execute all required documents and certifications.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0073

Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding Membership Dues

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUNDS FOR THE CONNECTICUT COALITION FOR JUSTICE IN EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Town Council approved the Town of Groton's participation in a joint effort with numerous other municipalities, called the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding (CCJEF), and

WHEREAS, the CCJEF formed an approach to require the State of Connecticut to bear more fully its responsibility for the funding of public schools in all cities and towns, and

WHEREAS, CCJEF has utilized a public service project consisting of faculty and students at Yale University School of Law to bring judicial attention, at a minimal cost, upon the central issues of shortfalls in the educational funding accomplishments of the State of Connecticut, and

WHEREAS, continuation of the litigation already commenced, and possible additional arguments and pleadings, requires further contributions from participating municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton may be expected to benefit in future years by receiving significant additional educational cost sharing if CCJEF litigation is successful, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves of the payment of \$3,500 to CCJEF, from already appropriated funds, to serve as the Town of Groton's dues for the current fiscal year.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Mayor Watson clarified that the Town has paid dues in the past, but that the Coalition has neglected to bill us for the last two years. This bill represents the dues for the current year only.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0074

Submarine Capital of the World Inc. Request for Donation

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION TO SUBMARINE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD INC.

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the Town of Groton to support efforts to enhance and retain the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, and

WHEREAS, an organization has recently been formed for that purpose, named Submarine Capital of the World Inc., also to be known as Subcap, and

WHEREAS, Subcap intends to produce and distribute video publicity and other material of a persuasive nature as to the value to the country of preserving and enhancing the U.S. Navy's submarine commands and operations based in Groton, and

WHEREAS, business and other organizations have begun contributing to the costs of Subcap, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has previously appropriated funds in the current Town budget for activities in support of the Submarine Base, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the payment of up to \$5,000 to Subcap from already appropriated funds for FYE 2008.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0078

Long Island Sound (LIS) Fund Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE LONG ISLAND SOUND FUND

WHEREAS, the latest Capital Improvement Plan for the Town of Groton includes a shelter for the Esker Point Beach, with a projected cost of \$60,000, and

WHEREAS, the Esker Point Beach improvement program is a continuing effort to improve the beach facilities and accessibility, and

WHEREAS, the planned shelter may qualify for an accessibility grant from the Long Island Sound Fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 from the Long Island Sound Fund and execute all documents and certifications that may be required.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0079 State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR FLANDERS ROAD UTILITIES EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered proposals for extension of utilities to the Flanders Road industrial area and has accepted, by resolution on March 4, 2008, the report of the Flanders Road Utilities Extension Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is seeking funding sources to help pay for a portion of the project's cost, and

WHEREAS, members of the Town Council recently visited Washington D.C. and raised the issue of Flanders Road Utilities funding with members of our Congressional delegation, and

WHEREAS, the Town has been informed that the federally funded State and Tribal Assistance Grant program, a highly competitive grant program, is a potential source for a significant portion of the funds we need, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to submit a grant application for up to \$7,700,000 from the State and Tribal Assistance program.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0080 Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FYE 2009 YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES FUNDING

WHEREAS, continued short-term counseling, crisis intervention, group work and programs are needed for Groton youth and families and

WHEREAS, funding is available from the State of Connecticut Department of Education to supplant a portion of the salaries of Groton Youth and Family Services Counselors who provide intervention and prevention services for at-risk Groton youth, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, is authorized to file an application with the State of Connecticut Department of Education (DOE) for FYE 09 youth services funding in an amount to be determined by the DOE and amend contractual agreements for such funding to ensure continuation of short-term counseling, crisis intervention, support programs and group work with Groton youth and families.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0082 Public Hearing on Gravel Street Pump Station Lease

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON A LEASE OF TOWN PROPERTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Act 07-218, effective October 1, 2007, the Town Council must conduct a public hearing on the proposed sale, lease, or transfer of real property owned by the Town, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed lease of a portion of the Gravel Street Pump Station in Mystic on April 15, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Sheets suggested that the Council may want to postpone this item, and recommends that the Town Attorney be consulted concerning the appealability of the decision of the Council after a public hearing.

The Town Manager stated that he will present the resolution and obtain the Town Attorney's opinion before the hearing date.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0083

Introduction of an Ordinance Creating an Other Postemployment Benefits Trust

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING: (1) THE CREATION OF AN OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TRUST TO HOLD, INVEST AND ADMINISTER FUNDS FOR POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTH BENEFITS AND (2) THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT AND ANCILLARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION THEREOF

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Under authority of Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-450 and to meet the requirements of the Government Accounting Standards Board, the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are hereby authorized and directed to establish a trust (the "VantageCare RHS Employer Investment Program Town of Groton Integral Part Trust") to hold and invest the assets of the Town's postemployment health benefit system as part of the "VantageCare RHS Employer Investment Program" and to enter into an "Administrative Services Agreement" with the International City Management Association Retirement Corporation ("ICMA-RC") for the administration thereof and any other agreements and/or documents ancillary thereto. The execution of any documents hereunder is subject to the approval by the Town Attorney of their form and legality. The Town Manager, the Director of Finance and the Director of Administrative Services are hereby empowered to serve as a committee to act as Trustee of said Trust, and the Town Manager may appoint up to two other town employees to serve as Trustees as part of said committee. This Ordinance shall become effective 44 days after publication of notice of passage.

Introduced by the Mayor and Referred for Information only to the RTM

2008-0084

Resolution Setting Public Hearing on an Ordinance Creating an Other Postemployment Benefits Trust

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING: (1) THE CREATION OF AN OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TRUST TO HOLD, INVEST AND ADMINISTER FUNDS FOR POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTH BENEFITS AND (2) THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT AND ANCILLARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION THEREOF

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an Ordinance Authorizing: (1) the creation of an Other Postemployment Benefits trust to hold, invest and administer funds for postemployment health benefits and (2) the execution of an agreement and ancillary documents for the creation and administration thereof on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Annex Community Room 1, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Finance Director to obtain a qualified cost estimate from the actuary for altering the benefit system, as per CGS 7-450a(b).

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Streeter and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant